

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

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TO USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

INFO AMREP BY POUCH (24 POSTS)

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 279151

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR, NATO, XM

SUBJECT: NAC DISCUSSION OF LATIN AMERICAN EXPERTS REPORT.

REF: USNATO 6232.

HOLD FOR OPENING OF BUSINESS.

1. YOU ARE AUTHORIZED TO ACCEPT THE NATO EXPERTS REPORT
ON LATIN AMERICA BUT SUGGEST THAT YOU MAKE THE FOLLOWING
COMMENTS KEYED TO NUMBERED PARTS OF THE REPORT.

2. PART I: WE CONCUR WITH THE GENERAL TENOR OF THIS
SECTION, I.E. THAT THERE HAS BEEN A NET IMPROVEMENT IN THE
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TONE OF INTER-AMERICAN RELATIONS OVER THE PAST YEAR. THE

NAC SHOULD BE AWARE, HOWEVER, THAT A NUMBER OF DIFFICULT PROBLEMS REMAIN AND WILL BE WITH US FOR SOME TIME. THESE ARISE GENERALLY FROM THE IMBALANCE IN POWER AND AFFLUENCE BETWEEN THE U.S. AND OTHER AMERICAN STATES. THE LATIN AMERICAN DESIRE FOR A "NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER" AND A RE-DISTRIBUTION OF GLOBAL WEALTH, FOR LIBERALIZED ACCESS TO THE U.S. MARKET, FOR GREATER CONTROL OVER THE OPERATION OF MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS AND PROTECTION AGAINST THE ECONOMIC LEVERAGE POTENTIALLY AVAILABLE TO THE U.S. REMAIN AS STRONG AS EVER. THESE OBJECTIVES WILL COMPRISE THE MAIN POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC AGENDA OF THE HEMISPHERE FOR MANY YEARS TO COME AND REPRESENT ISSUES WHICH WILL NOT BE RESOLVED QUICKLY.

3. THERE IS NOT MUCH MORE WE CAN SAY ABOUT THE PANAMA CANAL NEGOTIATIONS AT THIS STAGE. WE ARE SEEKING A MODERNIZED AND MORE DURABLE TREATY RELATIONSHIP WITH PANAMA WHICH WILL AFFORD DUE RECOGNITION OF PANAMANIAN SOVEREIGNTY AND ENSURE THAT THE CANAL REMAINS OPEN, SECURE AND NEUTRAL. BOTH SIDES, AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS, HAVE AGREED TO NEGOTIATE IN GOOD FAITH TO THIS END. PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE AND NEGOTIATIONS ARE BEING ACTIVELY PURSUED. AS THE NEGOTIATIONS HAVE PROCEEDED, BOTH GOVERNMENTS APPEAR TO HAVE DEVELOPED A CERTAIN UNDERSTANDING OF THE DOMESTIC POLITICAL CONSTRAINTS ON EACH SIDE.

4. PART III (PARAGRAPH 26): ON THE EVIDENCE SO FAR, WE ARE NOT OPTIMISTIC THAT LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES WILL "TEMPER THE IDEOLOGICAL EXTREMISM OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT," ON GLOBAL ECONOMIC ISSUES. MANY LATIN AMERICAN STATES HAVE MADE COMMON CAUSE WITH THE LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES WHOSE ECONOMIC GOALS THEY SHARE, AND HAVE FOUND A POLITICAL ;OME IN THE GENERAL NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT. INDEED, SOME LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES, INCLUDING THE MOST ECONOMICALLY ADVANCED, ARE AMONG THE LEADERS OF THIS IMPORTANT BODY OF WORLD OPINION. KISSINGER

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